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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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SERGEANT MAJOR

SgtMaj Angela Maness

H&S COMPANY

1st Lt Kevin Collins

SUPPORT COMPANY

CWO 4 Dan Fink

EMBEDDED PARTNERING TEAM

Capt Kamantauskas

MT COMPANY

Capt Everett Ledman

ENGINEER COMPANY

1st Lt Kevin Ritchie

FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

SSgt Andrew McCormack

FROM THE CO

Dear Family and Friends,

This is the first edition of a newsletter that will be published in addition to one you currently receive from the Family Readiness Officer at CLB-3 or CLR-3. It is meant to provide additional information about the Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 that are deployed, to include stories from the Company leadership as well as more photos of Marines and Sailors practicing their craft "in the field". It will also be published on a monthly basis, just as the other newsletter, but offset by approximately two weeks, so you will get some new information from the Battalion twice a month.

The Battalion deployed to the Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the Big Island of Hawaii in early June for the first phase of a comprehensive training package to prepare for deployment to Afghanistan. Our time here has passed quickly, and over the past three weeks, the Marines and Sailors from Oahu and Okinawa have come together and formed a cohesive team. They have participated in multiple training events to refine their ability to operate crew-served weapons systems, to communicate via radio and computer systems, and to conduct combat logistics patrols. Selected Marines and

Sailors have also received Combat Lifesaver training and Afghan culture and language classes. All of this training has meant long hours on the training range participating in the exercises, or in the maintenance bays and admin shops supporting the training, but throughout, the Marines and Sailors have worked hard and morale is high. I am very proud of all the Marines and Sailors for their efforts here at PTA, but there is still much work to do before we return home in August.

Next week, we travel to Twenty-nine Palms, California to begin exercise Enhanced Mojave Viper (EMV). The exercise includes training classes and practical applications that are similar to those we conducted at PTA. However, exercise EMV will include all the elements of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, which will allow us to practice our mission tasks in the way we will perform them during actual combat operations. Exercise EMV will require operations 24 hours a day for the entire month of training, but once it is finished, the Marines and Sailors will be prepared for any mission we may be given while deployed



Once exercise EMV is complete, the Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 will return to their respective home stations on Oahu and Okinawa. Once they do, the block leave period will commence on 14 Aug and will last until 28 Aug. As long as the Marine or Sailor has completed all required training, he/she will be permitted to go on leave for the entire block leave period. However, if he/she still has outstanding pre-deployment requirements, those requirements must be met prior to going on leave. Regardless of the specific dates, all Marines and Sailors will have the opportunity to take leave prior to deployment.

While their focus remains on the training at hand, everyone is looking forward to some time off with their family and friends. Thank you again for all of your support, and I wish you all a Happy 4th of July!

Semper Fidelis,
LtCol Hank Lutz

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FROM THE SGT MAJ

Aloha family and friends,

Hello from PTA, I am Sergeant Major Angela Maness and I am excited to have this opportunity to write to you and share some of the interesting facts I have learned about your Marine and/or Sailor.

I wanted you to know that the Battalion Commander and I share the same feeling about our Marines and Sailors. Although still early in the training cycle, one thing is clear, we have an impressive group of young men and women to work with.

As we began our training at PTA, it was obvious that our Marines and Sailors would have their basic skills tested everyday. The Staff Non Commissioned Officers began with planning missions and using their years of experience to train the Non Commissioned Officers. The NCOs are working the quality assurance part of the plan while keeping an eye on the discipline of each Marine and Sailor. The junior Marines and Sailors are learning quickly. They are the future of our

Corps and we expect them to make mistakes early on in training so that they will learn what works and what doesn't. They are learning fast.

The next step in our training is to move our deploying Marines and Sailors to Camp Wilson, 29 Palms, CA. Once there, our Marines and Sailors will use their newly acquired skill sets to train and be evaluated by the Tactical Training Exercise Control Group (TTECG) staff. The thirty day exercise, called Mojave Viper, is expected to be regimented and challenging.

The Mojave Desert temperatures reaching highs of 112 degrees will play a significant role in our training schedule.

The Battalion Commander and I want you to know that safety is (and will always be) our priority with regards to the members of this command.

It is a pleasure to be surrounded by the positive and encouraging attitudes of all of our Marines and Sailors. I am extremely proud of the things they have already accomplished. I look forward to serving with them in the upcoming training events and onward to our combat deployment



What is PONO?

PONO is the call sign for CLB-3. It is also the Hawaiian word for commitment, and that is exactly what CLB-3 is, we are committed. Committed to our mission, committed to our Marines and Sailors, and committed to our families.

To provide support to our families at home we have two wonderful Family Readiness Officers to aide you. In Okinawa there is Ms. Debra Sparkman at CLR-3, and in Hawaii there is Mr. Jerome Morris at CLB-3. We also have a Family Readiness Officer deployed with us, SSgt Andrew McCormack.

This team of trained professionals are here to support not only our Marines and Sailors, but also their families throughout this deployment. If at any-time throughout this evolution you are

in need of assistance, advice or just have some questions, do not hesitate to contact your local Family Readiness Officer .

Also, if you are finding yourself with extra time while your Marine or Sailor is away and want to do something to help make the time pass, contact your Family Readiness Officer and volunteer. Your time and assistance will be appreciated and you will be contributing to accomplishing our mission.

"Got PONO? Ask our Families."



The base camp of PTA

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

Greetings Family and Friends,

My name is First Lieutenant Kevin Collins and I am the Executive Officer for Headquarters and Service Company. I would like to begin with a thank you for your prayers, thoughts, concerns, and support for the Marines and Sailors of the Company. Your support has been appreciated as we train for our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

For those who are not familiar with the Company structure, allow me to give you a brief description. First, we have a Company staff that is responsible for the conduct of day-to-day administrative business. H&S Company also has all of the CLB-3 battalion staff sections. For the deployment, and also includes a platoon of Military Police to enhance the security and a Landing Support platoon to coordinate personnel and equipment movement.

Ever since CLB-3 arrived aboard PTA, Hawaii on 7 June, H&S

Company has integrated its augments from Okinawa and Oahu into a single team. From that time on, we've been participating in various training events that have gone beyond the Marine Corps annual requirements and various Military Occupational Specialty standards. The training has enhanced our ability to detect, counter, and deter the tactics of the enemy that we will face in Afghanistan. The Marines and Sailors have and will continue to sharpen and refine their capacity to carry out individual and collective task as a company and battalion. We enjoy working together and spending time with each other. Although we are away from our friends and families, we've developed a home away from home amongst ourselves.

I look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of your Marines and Sailors of H & S Company throughout the rest of our training schedule and our deployment to Afghanistan

Semper Fidelis,

1stLt Kevin F. Collins



Greetings H&S family,

I am **First Sergeant Watwood**, H&S Company's First Sergeant, and I would like to personally welcome all of you to the Combat Logistics Battalion H&S Company family. We welcome our newest members from Okinawa as well as the additions of Military Police and Landing Support Platoons to complete the Company.

As I am sure you have noticed, your Marine or Sailor has at times worked diligently prior to their departure to (PTA on the "Big Island" of Hawaii, and into the late hours of the evening in order to prepare for our upcoming deployment. I know this is only possible because of your patience and sacrifices. As we move on to our next phase of training EMV in 29 Palms California I can't tell you enough how proud I am of your Marines and Sailors for their achievements and sup-

port to the Battalion. Their steadfast positive approach to mission accomplishment does not go unnoticed. I would like to thank you for your understanding during this preparatory phase, for it is your support that allows your Marine or Sailor to fulfill his or her duties to Corps and Country. It is my pleasure to be a part of this Battalion and H&S Company, and I look forward to assisting you in any way I can.



Marines get "lined out" after completing a live fire range. This process is to ensure that no live ammunition leaves the range.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Dear Family and Friends of Support Company,

Aloha! If you are new to the company, I would like to welcome you into the family of the finest group of Marines of whom I have ever had the pleasure of serving with. I have been filling in for the Company Commander Chief Warrant Officer 4 Fink for the last few weeks, while he has been off getting married. I would like to say congratulations to him and his new bride, and wish them good luck in the future. I have been privileged to lead your Marines these last few weeks and am looking forward to training and serving with them the next few months.

I have learned over my career that a Marine's profession requires commitment by the whole family. As a spouse, family member, or friend, you know the sacrifices this commitment can entail. You play a vital role in the strength and well being of our company as you support your Marine. The safety of your

Marine is my utmost concern, and I am committed to doing everything in my power to insure that every Marine in Support Company is well trained before we meet the enemy.

As you know, your Marines have been very busy attending classes and working long hours repairing equipment here at PTA. The Marines have also been supporting training by serving as an opposing force against the Combat Logistics Patrol's as well as conducting live firing ranges to refine their weapons skills. We will be transitioning soon for the next phase of our training in California, but I want to say that we have appreciated all the support you have provided during our time at PTA, and that we are looking forward to completing the upcoming training at EMV, and then getting back home for time with friends and family.

Thank you for your service to your Marine, our company and our nation.

Semper Fidelis,

CWO2 Ron P. Claver



Greetings Support Company Family,

On behalf of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel J. Fink, our Company Commander, I, First Sergeant Chester Wilson III, would like to welcome you to Support Company, truly a Company of Professionals. For all of you who are joining us from Okinawa, we would like to express our heart felt thanks to you for giving up your precious family time as you support your Marines while they serve our Nation during this time of unrest. We would be remised if we did not pause to also welcome our three baby Devil Pups who were born since we have been here at PTA on the Big Island of Hawaii. Your Marines are doing a fantastic job here. The supporting and training staff here has nothing but good things to say about the great attitude, behavior and professionalism of our Marines. We are training hard, learning new and exciting things and are ready for the fight ahead. As I close this letter, I would

simply like to let you know that we are a professional organization that truly cares about the well being of all our personnel and family is very important to us. Have a wonderful and most importantly peaceful time back home knowing that your Marine is in good hands. Our training will come to an end soon enough after the completion of EMV in 29 Palms, California and your Marines will be back with you to spend some well deserved quality time.

PEACE BE UNTO YOU!



Marines receiving counter Improvised Explosive Training

EMBEDDED PARTNERING TEAM

Family and Friends,

I am First Lieutenant Redmond Gautier, acting Company Commander of the Battalion Enhanced Partnering Team (EPT). Once Captain Kamantauskas arrives, he will become the Company Commander from that point forward and I will become the Executive Officer. Our team was recently established to train a small portion of the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) on how to conduct proper logistical support. The goal is for the ANA to eventually operate independently without the assistance of coalition forces. With "partnership" being the key word, the success of our mission will rely heavily on the hard work of every member within our team. Our current training on the Big Island of Hawaii has already been paving the way, teaching us about the history of the Afghan culture and their way of life. We also have done some live fire weapons ranges and motorized convoy operations. When we reach Twenty-nine Palms, California, we will have a ten day training package for our team to better prepare us for what we might expect in country.

This training will be more in depth with instructors teaching our team the critical partnering skills necessary for the deployment, and the training will culminate with a final exercise. By that time, the entire team will be ready for some much earned liberty. Every individual has been working diligently and I am proud of every member within our team. Thank you so much for your support and God speed.



Semper Fidelis,

First Lieutenant Redmond B. Gautier IV

To All Family and Friends,

I am First Sergeant William Banks, the team 1stSgt & SNCOIC of the Battalions Enhanced Partnering Team (EPT). We have spent this last month conducting Pre-deployment training. The Marines have been working hard for the past month. We have been conducting training in PTA on the largest Island in the Hawaiian Island chain. Training exercises included small arms ranges, medium and heavy machine guns, anti-tank rocket and various convoy/ patrolling events. The Marines really enjoyed this because it was good refresher opportunity (for many) to employ some of these weapons systems and put into action some of the skill they have gained through out their time as Marines. The **EPT** stayed together at the PTA Camp which offered a positive environment that assisted in forming of the team as a cohesive unit. Soon we will be heading off to the Mojave Desert in 29 Palms, Ca. We are preparing for more training exercises in that area. The more opportunities we have to train in different regions really build experience within the Team. It will also provide a number of cultural opportunities to learn about the people we will be advising/ partnering

with in Afghanistan. In the upcoming month of August, I hope all of you get to enjoy the quality time you spend with your Marine or Sailor. You are an essential part of ensuring that the Marines and Sailors of CLB-3, EPT are ready for what lies ahead. Your job on the home front is as important and demanding as our job in Afghanistan, but I know you are up to the task. I appreciate all that you do for our Marines and Sailor. Keep up the good work and God bless.

It has been a good start to the deployment (the Pre-deployment Phase) and I know we still have many good things to come.



Marines and Sailors walking up a Pu'u or hill to conduct Call For Fire Training

MOTOR TRANSPORT COMPANY

Family and Friends

Aloha from the PTA on the Big Island of Hawai'i! My name is Captain Everett Ledman and I am the Motor Transport Company Commander. I am assisted in the leading of your Marine or Sailor with the help of First Sergeant Jose Molina, and together we would like to express to you the awesome job your loved one is doing here with us so far away from you.

As you are aware, training began several months ago with each respective unit at their home stations preparing for our upcoming deployment. In the beginning of June, just a few short weeks ago, the Motor Transport Company came together as a whole with most of our team coming from Okinawa, Japan. Since arriving here on the island, your loved ones have executed a very rigorous training schedule designed to test their physical and mental abilities. This training schedule included various types of weapons shoots, language training, culture training, and several day / night combat logistics patrols all at an ele-

vation of 6,000 feet above sea level. It has been a great team building exercise and learning experience for everyone involved. Our training here in Hawai'i is coming to an end and from here we will travel to Twenty-nine Palms, CA for more training in the Mojave Desert to sharpen and hone the skills that have been developed thus far.

In this short amount of time the camaraderie that has developed amongst every Marine and Sailor in the company is truly amazing. We are in awe and inspired by the level of professionalism that each of your loved ones has brought to the team, which is in no doubt partly due to your support and for that we would like to say Mahalo! We would ask that you please continue to support your loved ones while they are away from you. With that we will close for now and look forward to updating you again in the coming weeks.

Semper Fidelis

Capt Everett Ledman



Families of Motor Transport Company,

On behalf of the company commander Captain Everett Ledman, and myself, First Sergeant Jose Molina, greetings and "aloha" to the Okinawa families joining the CLB-3 family. As we get ready to write another chapter in our Corps' illustrious history, Marines from both Hawaii and Okinawa, Japan come together and meet for the first time on the Big Island of Hawaii to form the new Motor Transport Company. Just like a distant relative you do not see very often, the Marines and Sailors quickly made acquaintances and friendships to last a life time. The training that they have been conducting has challenged them beyond their expectations, but in essence has built a stronger bond with their new brothers and sisters enabling them to solidify "esprit de corps". Their flexibility and adaptation to these changes is a testament to their strong minds and unwavering character. In anticipation of our transition to EMV in

California, I want to thank you for your unfailing support and dedication to your Marines and Sailors. With you maintaining the home front, Motor Transport Company can focus and continue momentum as they continue to display the epitome of a true American Hero. Although this time apart from you loved ones is tough and will challenge the human spirit, rest assured that time of despair only builds a stronger relationship. God bless and until next time.



The CLR-3 Regimental Sgt Maj training with the Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 at PTA

ENGINEER COMPANY

To the Families and Friends of Engineer Company,

I am First Lieutenant Kevin Ritchie and I am the Company Commander for Engineer Company. After nearly two months of preparation, we have finally assembled the core of our unit that will be going forward to Afghanistan this fall. The Marines and Sailors of Engineer Company, coming from parent commands all over Okinawa, mainland Japan, and Hawaii, are now in the middle of a two month training evolution that will not just introduce each other as team members, but ultimately ensure that together we reach a level of efficiency and preparedness only found in the United States Marine Corps.

Despite the challenging schedule, the Marines and Sailors remain enthusiastic about the training opportunities provided to them, and they constantly seek to maximize the time they have to become experts in their fields and an asset to the battalion. Whether they are a Bulk Fuel Specialist, a Heavy Equipment Operator, an Electrician, a Mechanic, a Motor Trans-

port Operator, or a Combat Engineer, all personnel in the company are training together in the basic warrior skills that will make them successful in theater.

We are also looking forward to some well earned block leave upon completion of the required training and classes. Equally important to our mission readiness is ensuring that our personnel are provided the opportunity to balance their personal lives, and our senior leaders are more than willing to provide guidance and assistance to the junior Marines, especially our first-time deployers, as they prepare themselves and their families for deployment. We will take care of each other.

It is my pleasure to get to work with such a diverse group of individuals who selflessly display such dedication to a cause greater than themselves. Enjoy the summer and we will keep you posted as we continue to press on.

Semper Fidelis,

1stLt Kevin R. Ritchie



I am First Sergeant Studley, the Engineer Company First Sergeant. During our recent deployment to Pohakuloa Training Area on the big Island of Hawaii, the Engineer Company of CLB-3 conducted numerous platoon level training events in preparation for our upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. The Marines conducted numerous live fire training with small arms, machine guns, and demolitions. Along with

learning how to call for fire and conducting Combat Logistics Patrols to enhance our ability to perform in theater. The moral and dedication the Marines of Engineer Company display on a daily basis is impressive and inspiring, making it a privilege to serve along side such a motivated group of war fighters.



Marines and Sailors of Engineer Company waiting for the boom



Marines of Engineer Company preparing Demolition charges

Aloha From The Pōhakuloa Training Area

Pōhakuloa Training Area extends up the lower slopes of Mauna Kea to approximately 6,800 feet (2,100 m) in elevation and to about 9,000 feet (2,700 m) on Mauna Loa. The training area is about midway between Hilo, on the east coast and the Army landing site at Kawaihae Harbor. It is used by both the U.S. Army and Marine Corps.

The PTA consists of 108,863 acres, which includes the impact and range areas, maneuver areas, and the support complex. The cantonment area was constructed in April 1955 from World War II prefabricated Quonset huts. The airfield, was constructed in 1956.

The support area includes 600 acres of logistic and administrative facilities. PTA has a 51,000 acre impact area used for bombing and gunnery practice, refurbished in March 2009 to allow helicopter training. There are approximately 32,000 acres of land level enough for large maneuvers, more than twice the area available on O'ahu.

The name comes from the *pu'u pōhaku loa*, which means "long rocky cinder cone" in the Hawaiian Language, although like many other Hawaiian names, the same name has been used for other places on the island.



Gate to the entrance of PTA



Engineers preparing a charge on the demolition range



LtCol Lutz in the field training with the Marines and Sailors of Motor Transport Company



Marines preparing to fire the AT-4 anti-tank rocket



Despite its barren training area, PTA can be beautiful

PICTURES FROM PŌHAKULOA TRAINING AREA



Support company on a training hike



Marines of CLB-3 getting their swell on at the gym on base.



Spades is a staple of every deployment



Motor Transport Company and Landing Support Platoon conducting Landing Zone operations.



Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 conducting weapons training



Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 awaiting classes



CLB-3 end of PTA training formation.



Sgt Robert Torres receiving the Battalion Commander's coin



Sgt Louis Heuriquez receiving the NCO's coin from Battalion Sgt Maj



CLB-3 Officers serving the warrior meal



Maj Eby on the grill



Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 in line for the warriors meal

SEE YOU IN 29 PALMS!!!!